Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A purified preparation of mammalian ~~hemangioblast~~ cells which (i) is capable of proliferation in an *in vitro* culture for more than 40 generations, (ii) does not induce tumor formation in an ~~immunodeficent Rag1-deficient~~ immunodeficient Rag1-deficient mouse, (iii) maintains the potential to differentiate to hematopoietic and endothelial cells throughout the duration of said culture, and (iv) wherein the cells are inhibited from differentiation when cultured on a gelatinized, feeder-free layer.

16. (previously presented) The preparation of claim 15, wherein the cells are not immunoreactive with CD34, PECAM-1 (or CD31), Flk-1, Tie-2, Sca-1, Thy-1 and P-selectin markers.

17. (previously presented) The preparation of claim 15 wherein the cells are human.

18. (currently amended) The preparation of claim 15 wherein the mammalian ~~hemangioblast~~ cells are mouse embryonic cell line deposited under ATCC PTA-4300.

19. (currently amended) A method of preparing a mammalian ~~hemangioblast~~ cell line, comprising the steps of: (i) culturing on a feeder layer a cell source selected from the group consisting of a delayed mammalian blastocyst, an early post-implantation embryo together with its extra-embryonic tissues, an embryonic stem cell-derived embryoid body, and bone marrow tissue, (ii) selecting colonies of adherent fibroblastic cells with loosely attached rapidly dividing round cells having ring-like cells at their edges, and (iii) testing cells in the selected colonies for ability to differentiate into both endothelial and hematopoietic cells.

20. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cell source is bone marrow tissue, and further comprising the ~~stop~~ step of harvesting bone marrow tissue which retains integrity in tissue clumps prior to the step of culturing.

21. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cell source is human.

22. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising maintaining the selected cells on a gelatinized feeder-free layer to inhibit differentiation.

23. (currently amended) A cell line developed by the method of claim 19 and comprising mammalian cells which (i) are capable of proliferation in an *in vitro* culture for more than 40 generations, (ii) do not induce tumor formation in an immunodeficient Rag1-deficient mouse, (iii) maintain the potential to differentiate to hematopoietic and endothelial cells throughout the duration of said culture, and (iv) are inhibited from differentiation when cultured on a gelatinized, feeder-free layer.

24. (currently amended) A method for inducing formation of new blood vessels in an ischemic tissue in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the purified preparation of mammalian ~~hemangioblast~~ cells according to claim 17 to induce new blood vessel formation in said ischemic tissue.

25. (currently amended) A method of enhancing blood vessel formation in a patient in need thereof, comprising: (i) selecting the patient in need thereof; (ii) isolating human ~~hemangioblast~~ cells according to the method of claim 21; and (iii) administering the ~~hemangioblast~~ cells to the patient.

26. (currently amended) A method for treating an injured blood vessel in a patient in need thereof, comprising: (i) selecting the patient in need thereof; (ii) isolating human ~~hemangioblast~~ cells according to the method of claim 21; and (iii) administering the ~~hemangioblast~~ cells to the patient.

27 & 28. (canceled)